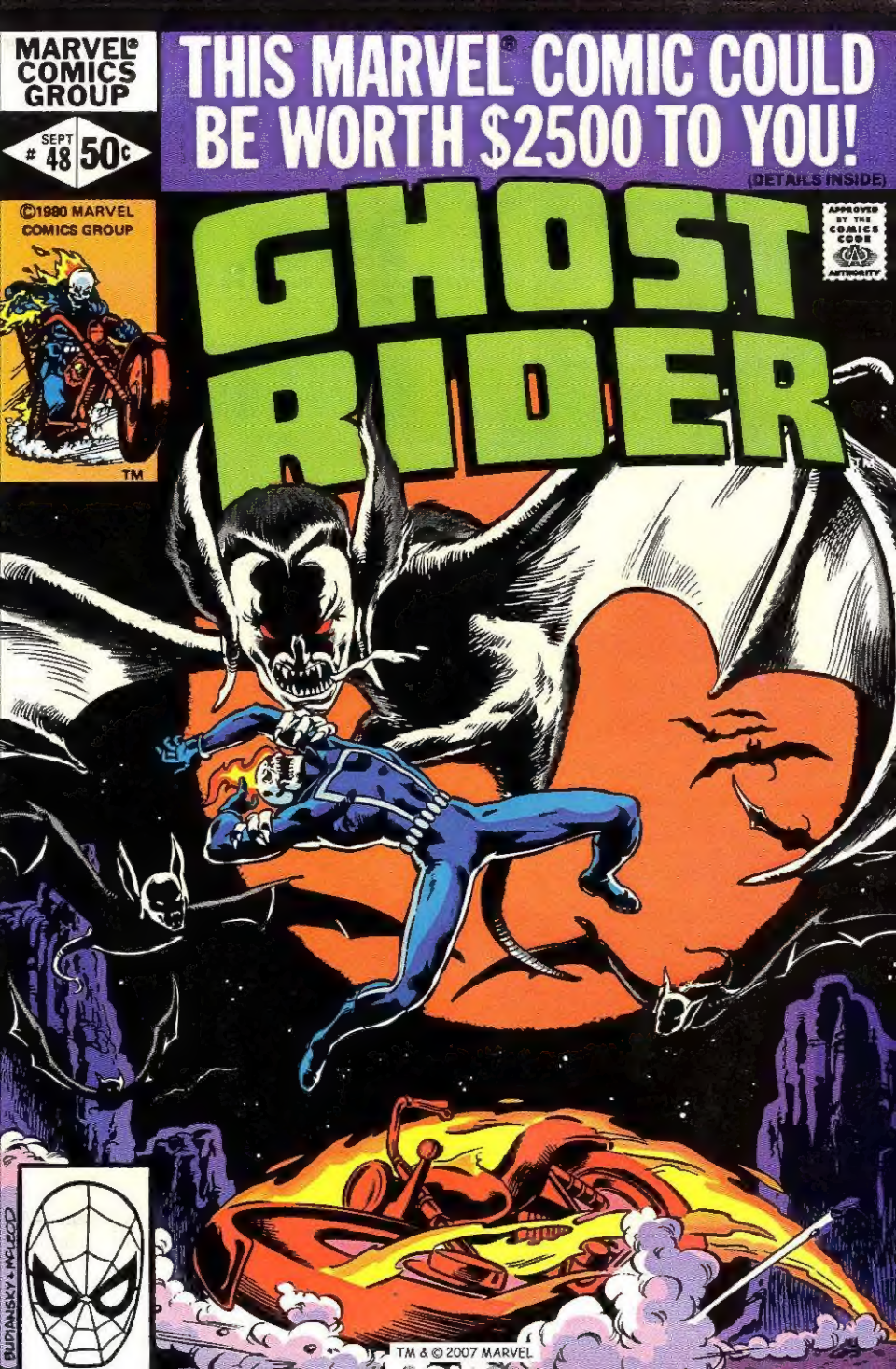
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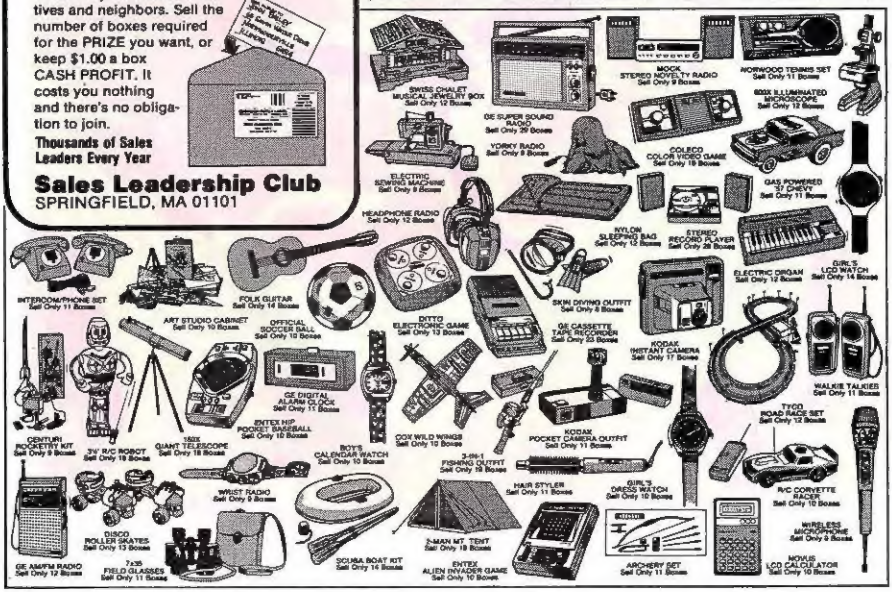

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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hellfire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!

WIND OF THE UNDEAD!

A COLD WIND LASHES THE PRAIRIE LIKE A FLAIL IN THE HAND OF AN ANGRY GOD AS A BONE-WEARY STUNT-BIKER-TURNED-WANDERING NAMED JOHNNY BLAZE URGES HIS CUSTOM-BUILT STUNTCYCLE ACROSS THE BLEAK LANDSCAPE...

BRRR! WHAT A DREARY PLACE THIS IS! AND THAT WIND! IT STARTED TWO DAYS AGO AND IT HASN'T LET UP SINCE! IF I DON'T FIND SHELTER SOON, I'LL PROBABLY END UP FROZEN STIFF!

THOSE HUGE BIRDS UP THERE... BOY, YOU SURE GOTTA HAND IT TO 'EM! 'CAUSE IN THIS BLEAK, BARREN TERRAIN HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS HOW THEY MANAGE TO FIND ANYTHING TO EAT!

OH, THEY MANAGE, JOHNNY BLAZE! THEY MANAGE...

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LETTERED BY: JIM NOVAK
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JIM SHOOTER

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YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW RESOURCEFUL NATURE CAN BE AT TAKING CARE OF ITS OFFSPRING...!
SCREEEE
HOLY TOLEDO! VAMPIRES! A-AND THEY'RE AFTER BLOOD! MY BLOOD!
SCREECHING LIKE A BANSHEE, THE MOST VORACIOUS OF THE BAT-WINGED MONSTERS SEIZES JOHNNY BLAZE IN ITS KNIFELIKE TALONS, WRENCHES HIM VIOLENTLY OFF HIS CAREENING MOTOR-CYCLE...
...AND THEN HURTLES AWAY WITH HIM INTO THE BOTTOMLESS MIDNIGHT SKY...
WE'RE ALREADY A HUNDRED FEET OR MORE OFF THE GROUND! I HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THIS CREATURE! I-I'LL DIE UP HERE UNLESS I...
...SOMEHOW FORCE MYSELF TO CONCENTRATE... WILL AWAY MY MORTALITY...
...TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO... INTO...
...THE GHOST RIDER...!

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NOW THE PITCHBLENDE SKY IS ABLAZE WITH HELLFIRE AS BRIMSTONE SIRES AND BLOOD-STARVED HELL-BAT LOCK IN MORTAL COMBAT HIGH ABOVE THE DESOLATE, MOON-WASHED GROUND...
LEATHERN WINGS FLAP LIKE MUFFLED THUNDER AND PIERCING BAT-SHRIEKS FILL THE AIR--
--BUT THESE SOUNDS ARE MERE WHISPERS COMPARED TO THE FEARSOME LAUGHTER OF... THE GHOST RIDER...
TASTE MY VENGEANCE, HELL-BAT! TASTE THE STING OF SOUL-SEARING FIRE STRAIGHT FROM THE PITS OF HELL ITSELF!
SCALDED TO ITS VERY VITALS BY CRIMSON FLAME, THE VAMPIRE, FOR AN INSTANT, LOOSENS ITS GRASP. AND IN THAT INSTANT ITS FIERY QUARRY BEGINS--
--TO FALL--!!
IT IS A FALL THAT WOULD MEAN INSTANT DEATH FOR A MORTAL MAN. YET IT HOLDS NO TERROR WHATEVER FOR THE SATANIC CYCLIST...
FOR WHAT IS A HUNDRED-FOOT FALL TO A DEMON, AFTER ALL? WHAT FEAR CAN DEATH HOLD... FOR A GHOST...?
THE HELL-BATS FLEE! THEY SHALL HAVE NO MEAL OF BLOOD WITH WHICH TO SLAKE THEIR THIRST THIS NIGHT!

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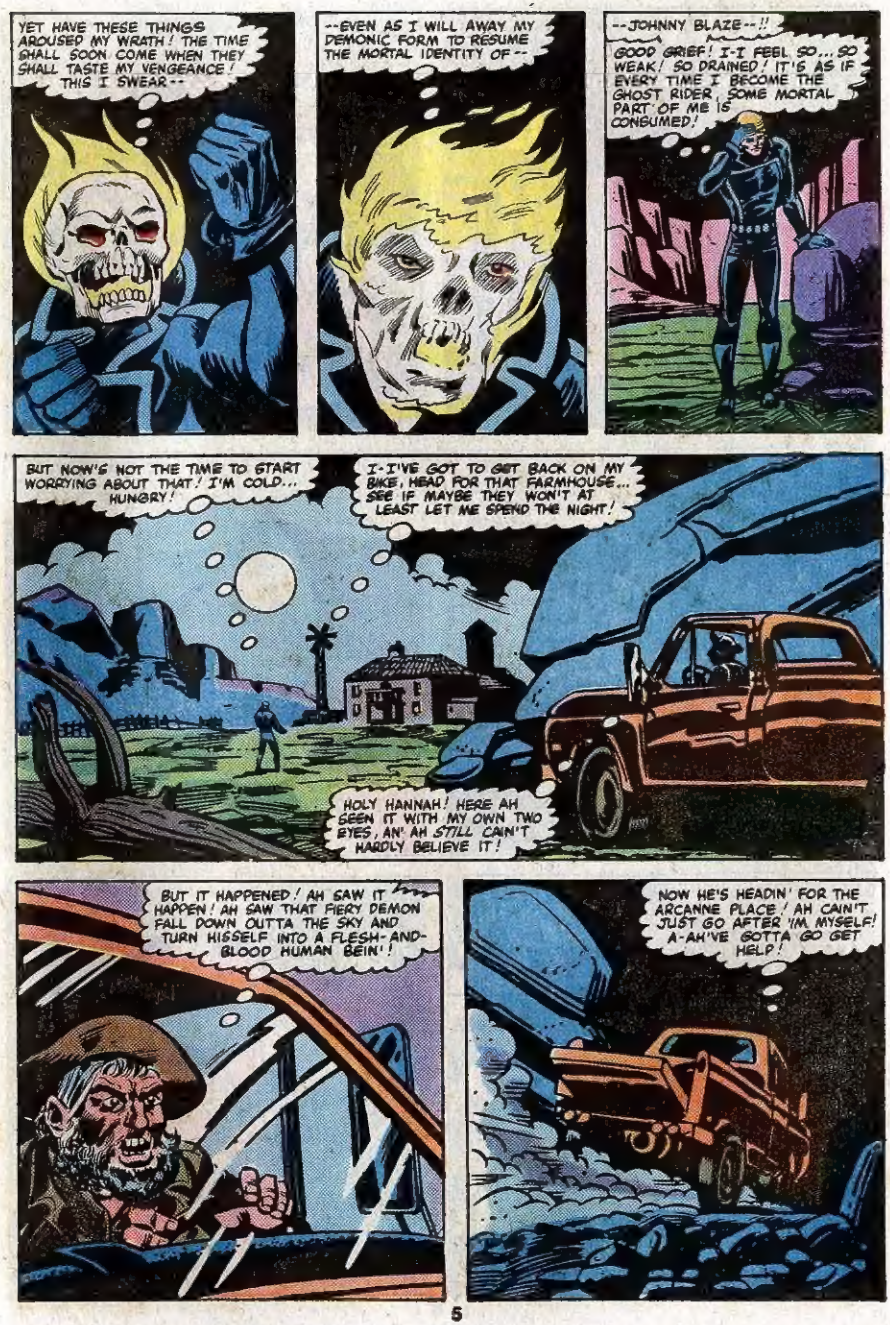
YET HAVE THESE THINGS AROUSED MY WRATH! THE TIME SHALL SOON COME WHEN THEY SHALL TASTE MY VENGEANCE! THIS I SWEAR--
--EVEN AS I WILL AWAY MY DEMONIC FORM TO RESUME THE MORTAL IDENTITY OF--
--JOHNNY BLAZE--!!
GOOD GRIEF! I-I FEEL SO... SO WEAK! SO DRAINED! IT'S AS IF EVERY TIME I BECOME THE GHOST RIDER, SOME MORTAL PART OF ME IS CONSUMED!
BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO START WORRYING ABOUT THAT! I'M COLD... HUNGRY!
I-I'VE GOT TO GET BACK ON MY BIKE, HEAD FOR THAT FARMHOUSE... SEE IF MAYBE THEY WON'T AT LEAST LET ME SPEND THE NIGHT!
HOLY HANNAH! HERE AH SEEN IT WITH MY OWN TWO EYES, AN' AH STILL CAIN'T HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
BUT IT HAPPENED! AH SAW IT HAPPEN! AH SAW THAT FIERY DEMON FALL DOWN OUTTA THE SKY AND TURN HISSELF INTO A FLESH-AND-BLOOD HUMAN BEIN'!
NOW HE'S HEADIN' FOR THE ARCANNE PLACE! AH CAIN'T JUST GO AFTER 'IM MYSELF! A-AH'VE GOTTA GO GET HELP!

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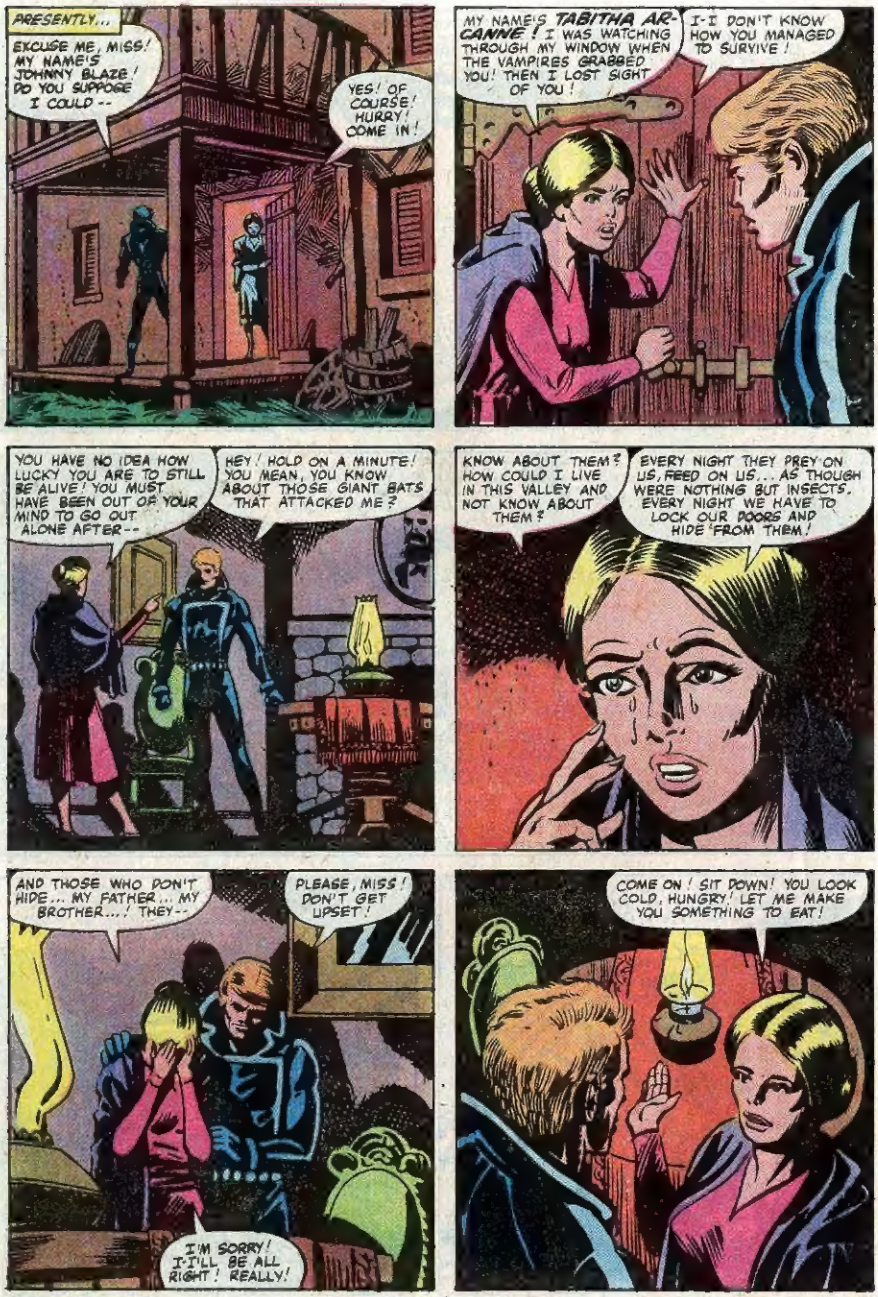
PRESENTLY...
EXCUSE ME, MISS! MY NAME'S JOHNNY BLAZE! DO YOU SUPPOSE I COULD --
YES! OF COURSE! HURRY! COME IN!
MY NAME'S TABITHA ARCANNE! I WAS WATCHING THROUGH MY WINDOW WHEN THE VAMPIRES GRABBED YOU! THEN I LOST SIGHT OF YOU!
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO STILL BE ALIVE! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF YOUR MIND TO GO OUT ALONE AFTER--
HEY! HOLD ON A MINUTE! YOU MEAN, YOU KNOW ABOUT THOSE GIANT BATS THAT ATTACKED ME?
KNOW ABOUT THEM? HOW COULD I LIVE IN THIS VALLEY AND NOT KNOW ABOUT THEM?
EVERY NIGHT THEY PREY ON US, FEED ON US... AS THOUGH WE'RE NOTHING BUT INSECTS. EVERY NIGHT WE HAVE TO LOCK OUR DOORS AND HIDE FROM THEM!
AND THOSE WHO DON'T HIDE... MY FATHER... MY BROTHER...! THEY--
PLEASE, MISS! DON'T GET UPSET!
I'M SORRY! I-I'LL BE ALL RIGHT! REALLY!
COME ON! SIT DOWN! YOU LOOK COLD, HUNGRY! LET ME MAKE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT!

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MEANWHILE, A SCANT TEN MILES AWAY, OUTSIDE A DILAPIDATED RAMSHACKLE RANCH HOUSE NESTLED ATOP A CRAGGY, ROCKSTREWN MESA...
SCREE

WELCOME HOME, MY LOVELIES! WELCOME HOME FROM YOUR NIGHTLY QUEST FOR BLOOD AND FLESH -- HUMAN FLESH!
AH YES, I KNOW, MY PRECIOUS BAT-WINGED PETS!

I KNOW THAT YOU WERE BRUTALLY ATTACKED THIS NIGHT BY THE HELL-SPAWNED DEMON MEN CALL THE GHOST RIDER; FOR ALL THAT TRANSPIRED HAS ALREADY BEEN PLAYED OUT FOR ME IN THE GLISTENING FACETS OF MY MYSTIC CRYSTAL!

MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS AMONG THE MANY TRANSYLVANIANS TO FALL VICTIM TO THE SAVAGE BITE OF THE GREAT COUNT DRACULA! HE, IN TURN, PASSED THE CURSE ON TO ME!

BUT IT WAS MY FATHER AND GRANDFATHER, LONG SINCE SLAIN BY VAMPIRE KILLERS, WHO FIRST BROUGHT THE LEGIONS OF THE UNDEAD TO AMERICA, TO FOUND A DYNASTY OF VAMPIRES IN THIS BRAVE NEW LAND! THIS ARID VALLEY IS OUR STRONGHOLD!

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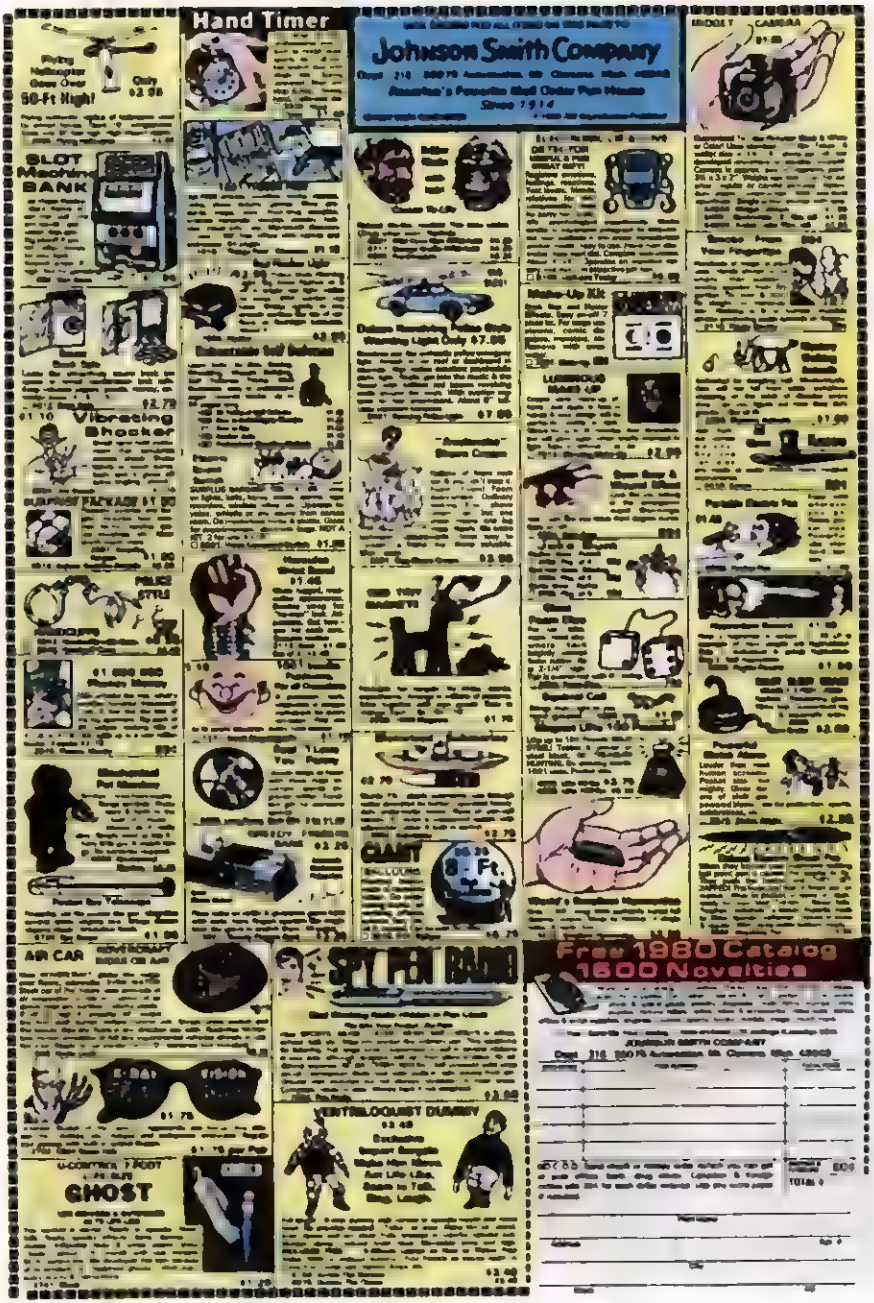

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NOW JUST A COTTON-PICKIN' MINUTE! WHO IN--
DON'T LET 'IM TRY AN' STALL YUH, BOYS! NO TELLIN' WHAT HE'S LIABLE TO DO IF'N WE GIVE 'IM A CHANCE TO CHANGE BACK INTO THE DEMON!
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THAT, JAKE!

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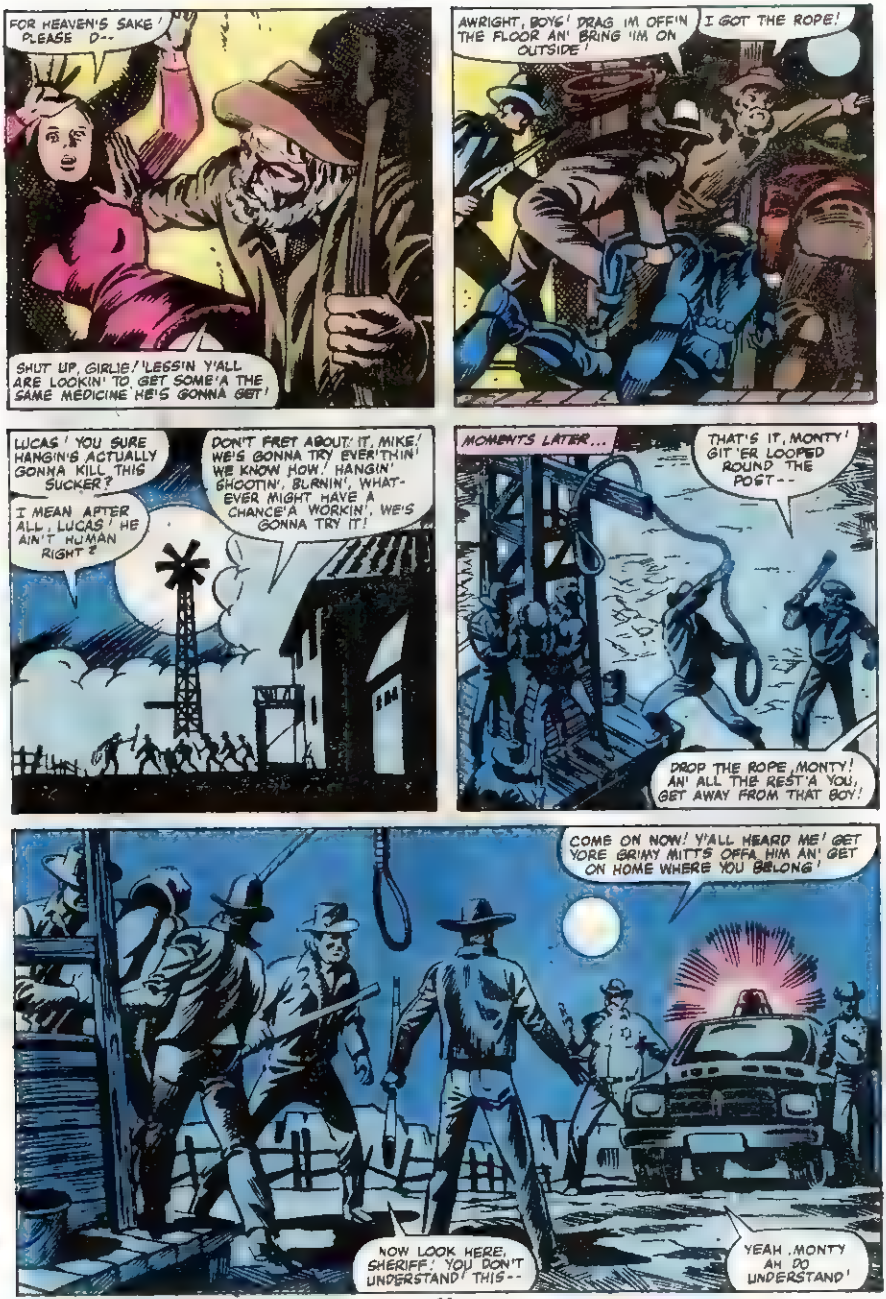
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! PLEASE D--
SHUT UP, GIRLIE! LESS'N Y'ALL ARE LOOKIN' TO GET SOME'A THE SAME MEDICINE HE'S GONNA GET!
AWRIGHT, BOYS! DRAG 'IM OFF'N THE FLOOR AN' BRING 'IM ON OUTSIDE!
I GOT THE ROPE!
LUCAS! YOU SURE HANGIN'S ACTUALLY GONNA KILL THIS SUCKER?
I MEAN AFTER ALL, LUCAS! HE AIN'T HUMAN RIGHT?
DON'T FRET ABOUT IT, MIKE! WE'S GONNA TRY EVER'THIN' WE KNOW HOW! HANGIN' SHOOTIN', BURNIN', WHAT-EVER MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE'A WORKIN', WE'S GONNA TRY IT!
MOMENTS LATER...
THAT'S IT, MONTY! GIT 'ER LOOPED ROUND THE POST--
DROP THE ROPE, MONTY! AN' ALL THE REST'A YOU, GET AWAY FROM THAT BOY!
COME ON NOW! Y'ALL HEARD ME! GET YORE GRIMY MITTS OFFA HIM AN' GET ON HOME WHERE YOU BELONG!
NOW LOOK HERE, SHERIFF! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THIS--
YEAH, MONTY AH DO UNDERSTAND!

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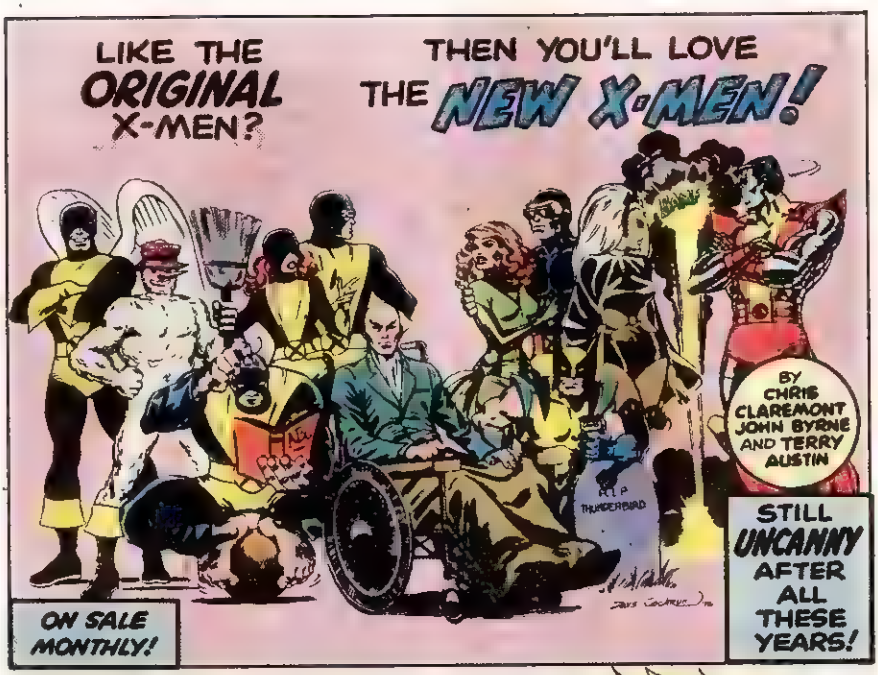
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ONLY IN MY COUNTY AH AIN'T GONNA STAND FER NOBODY GETTIN HISSELF LYNCHED EVEN IF HE IS A DEMON!
NOW Y'ALL GET ON OUTTA HERE A FORE AH FERGIT YO'RE MUH NEIGHBORS AN' DECIDE TUH RUN YUH ALL IN
GET INSIDE THE CAR YOUNGSTER YOU SHORE AS BLAZES CAN'T STAY HERE TONIGHT AH'M TAKIN YOU WHERE AT LEAST YUH'LL BE SAFE!
AND SO
HEY! NOW WAIT A MINUTE SHERIFF! THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG! YOU CAN'T
IT'S FER YORE OWN GOOD YOUNGSTER AN' YOU KNOW IT! AH LET YOU OUTTA HERE NOW, THAT MOB'LL BE STRETCHIN YORE NECK AGAIN A FORE YOU KIN SAY SPIT! BUT DON'T WORRY!
COME FIRST THING TOMORROW WE
SHERIFF YOU GOTTA COME QUICK
MINNIE HARPER'S ON THE PHONE SHE SAYS SHE'S JUST SEEN A WHOLE FLOCK A THEM VAMPIRE BATS SWOOP DOWN ON THE ARCANNE PLACE AND CARRY OFF THAT ARCANNE GIRL!
WHAT?
OH NO!

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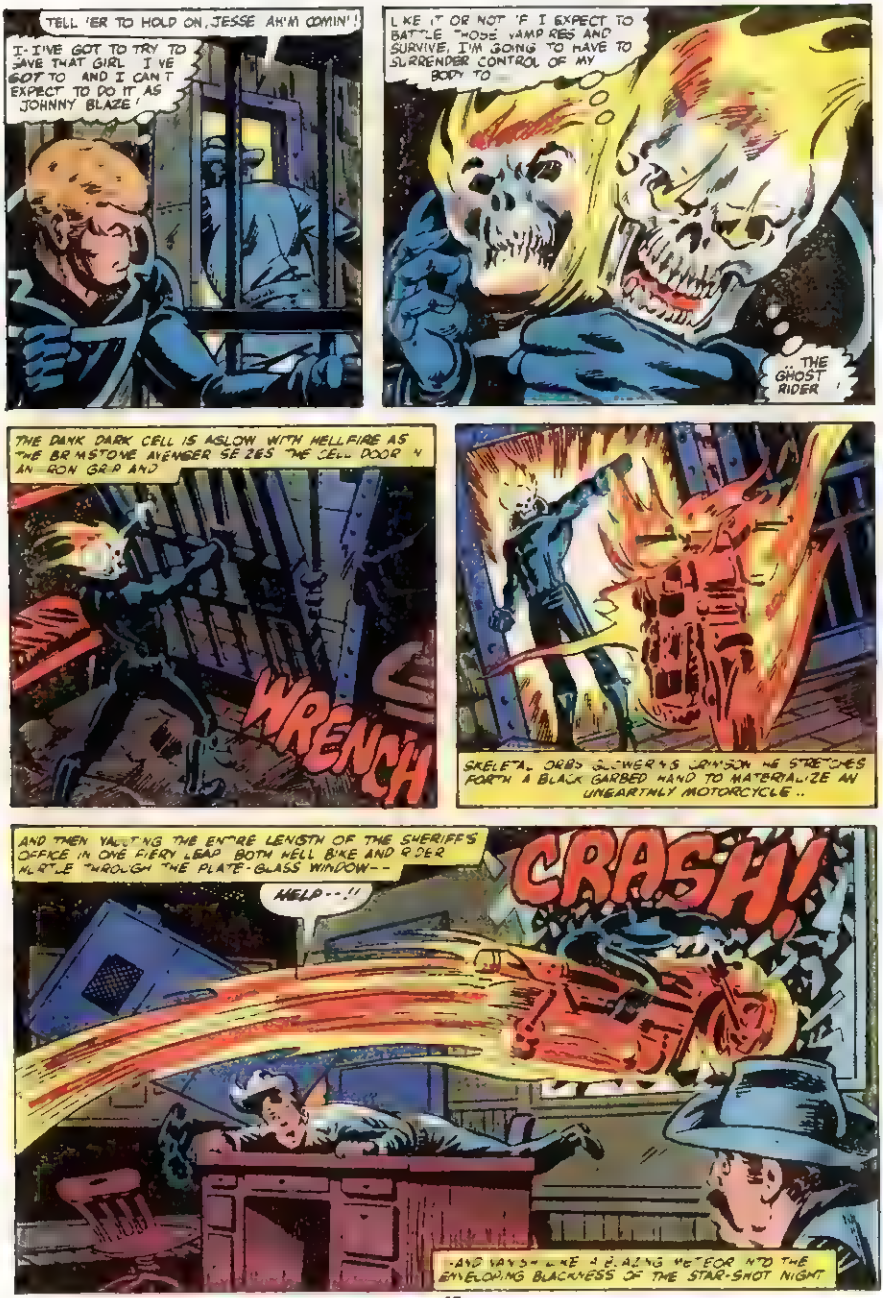
TELL 'ER TO HOLD ON, JESSE AH'M COMIN'!
I- I'VE GOT TO TRY TO SAVE THAT GIRL I'VE GOT TO AND I CAN'T EXPECT TO DO IT AS JOHNNY BLAZE!
LIKE IT OR NOT 'F I EXPECT TO BATTLE THOSE VAMPIRES AND SURVIVE, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SURRENDER CONTROL OF MY BODY TO ...
... THE GHOST RIDER!
THE DANK DARK CELL IS ASLOW WITH HELLFIRE AS THE BRIMSTONE AVENGER SEIZES THE CELL DOOR IN AN IRON GRIP AND
WRENCH
SKELETAL ORBS GLOWER AS JOHNSON HE STRETCHES FORTH A BLACK GARBED HAND TO MATERIALIZE AN UNEARTHLY MOTORCYCLE ..
AND THEN VAULTING THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN ONE FIERY LEAP BOTH HELL BIKE AND RIDER HURTLE THROUGH THE PLATE-GLASS WINDOW--
HELP--!!
CRASH!
-AND VANISH LIKE A BLAZING METEOR INTO THE ENVELOPING BLACKNESS OF THE STAR-SHOT NIGHT

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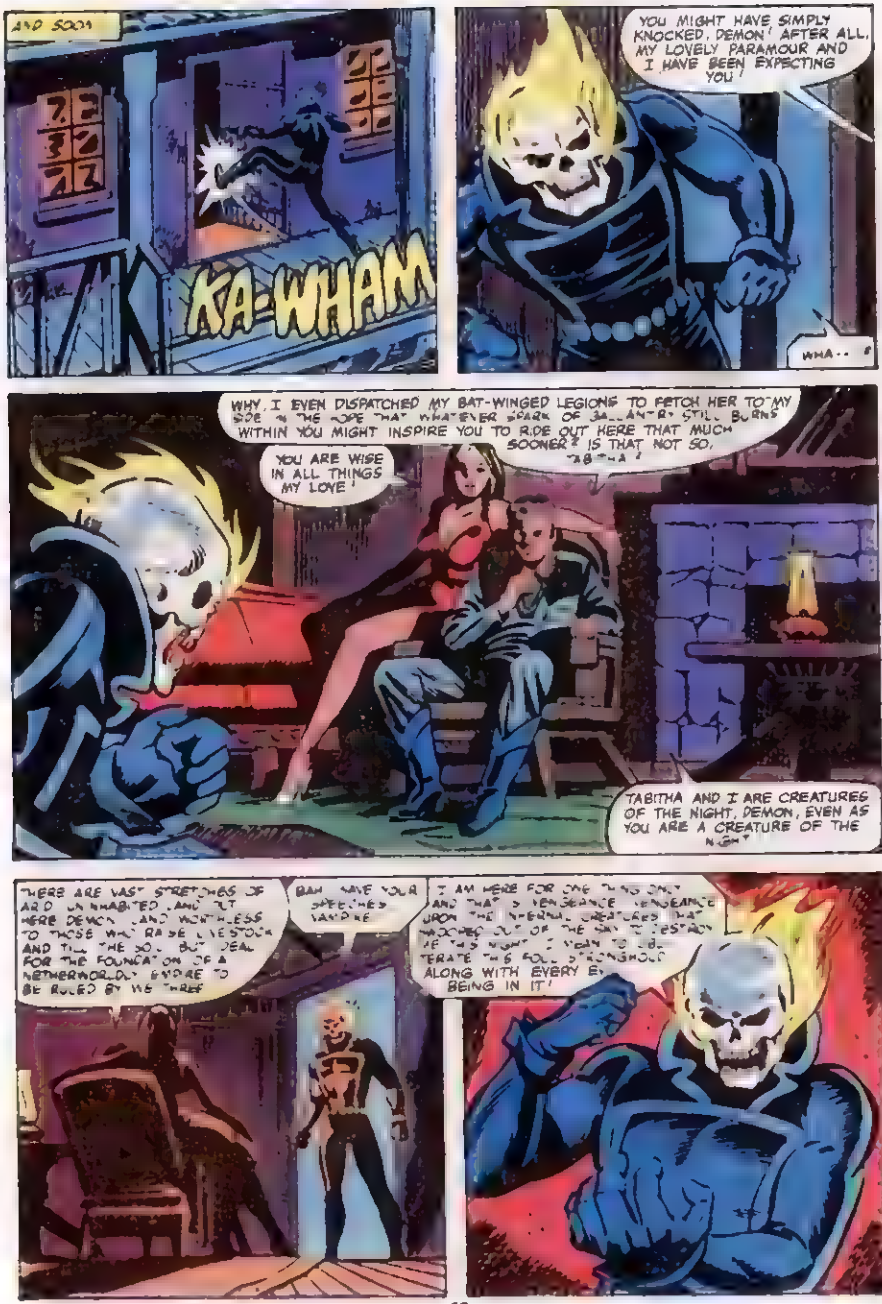
AND SOON
KA-WHAM
YOU MIGHT HAVE SIMPLY KNOCKED, DEMON! AFTER ALL, MY LOVELY PARAMOUR AND I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
WHA..
WHY, I EVEN DISPATCHED MY BAT-WINGED LEGIONS TO FETCH HER TO MY SIDE IN THE HOPE THAT WHATEVER SPARK OF HUMANITY STILL BURNS WITHIN YOU MIGHT INSPIRE YOU TO RIDE OUT HERE THAT MUCH SOONER! IS THAT NOT SO, TABITHA?
YOU ARE WISE IN ALL THINGS MY LOVE!
TABITHA AND I ARE CREATURES OF THE NIGHT, DEMON, EVEN AS YOU ARE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT
THERE ARE VAST STRETCHES OF ARID UNINHABITED LAND OUT HERE DEMON, AND WORTHLESS TO THOSE WHO RAISE LIVESTOCK AND TILL THE SOIL. BUT IDEAL FOR THE FOUNDATION OF A NETHERWORLDLY EMPIRE TO BE RULED BY WE THREE
BAH! HAVE YOUR SPEECHES VAMPIRE
I AM HERE FOR ONE THING ONLY AND THAT IS VENGEANCE VENGEANCE UPON THE INFERNAL CREATURES THAT HOOVERED OUT OF THE SKY TO FESTOON IF THIS NIGHT I YEARN TO OBLITERATE THIS FOUL STRONGHOLD ALONG WITH EVERY EVIL BEING IN IT!

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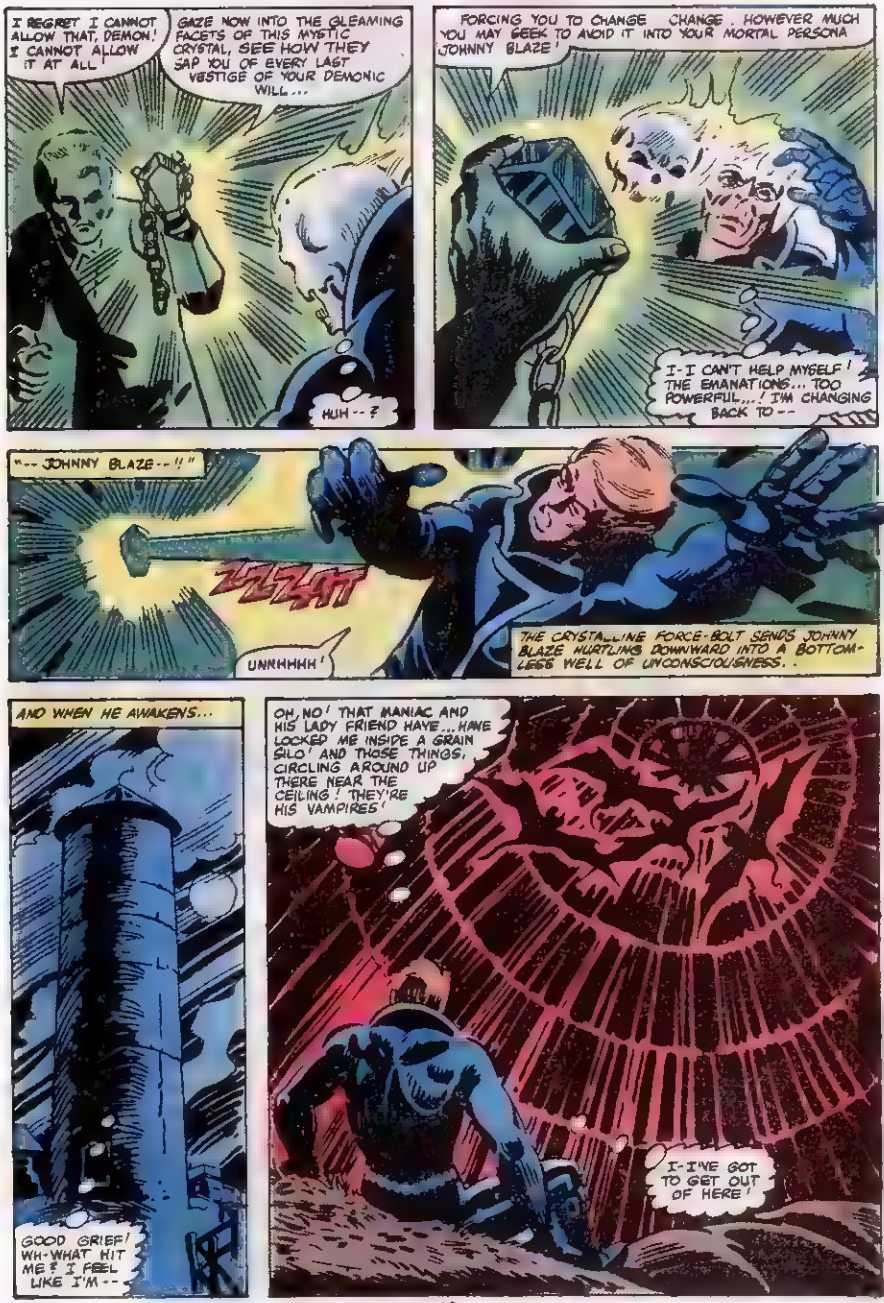
I REGRET I CANNOT ALLOW THAT, DEMON! I CANNOT ALLOW IT AT ALL!
GAZE NOW INTO THE GLEAMING FACETS OF THIS MYSTIC CRYSTAL, SEE HOW THEY SAP YOU OF EVERY LAST VESTIGE OF YOUR DEMONIC WILL...
HUH--?
FORCING YOU TO CHANGE CHANGE, HOWEVER MUCH YOU MAY SEEK TO AVOID IT INTO YOUR MORTAL PERSONA JOHNNY BLAZE!
I-I CAN'T HELP MYSELF! THE EMANATIONS... TOO POWERFUL...! I'M CHANGING BACK TO--
"--JOHNNY BLAZE--!"
ZZZLAT
UNNHHHH!
THE CRYSTALLINE FORCE-BOLT SENDS JOHNNY BLAZE HURTLING DOWNWARD INTO A BOTTOMLESS WELL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS.
AND WHEN HE AWAKENS...
GOOD GRIEF! WH-WHAT HIT ME? I FEEL LIKE I'M--
OH, NO! THAT MANIAC AND HIS LADY FRIEND HAVE... HAVE LOCKED ME INSIDE A GRAIN SILO! AND THOSE THINGS, CIRCLING AROUND UP THERE NEAR THE CEILING! THEY'RE HIS VAMPIRES!
I-I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

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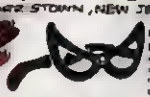

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SUPER HEROES CODE FLASHER

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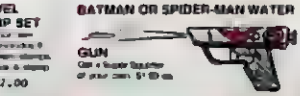
BATMAN OR SPIDER-MAN WATER GUN



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Complete with battery. Turn on & watch Hulk light

SPIDER-MAN RUBBER BAND GUN

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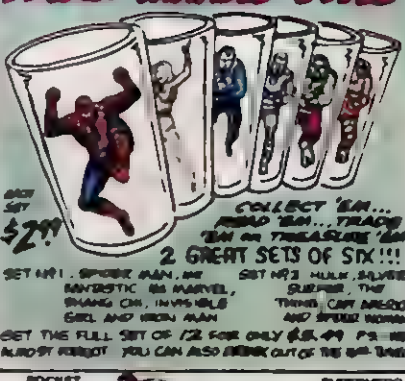
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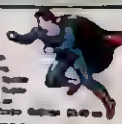

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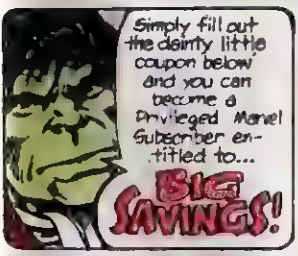
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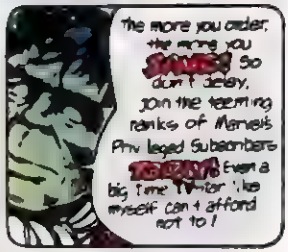
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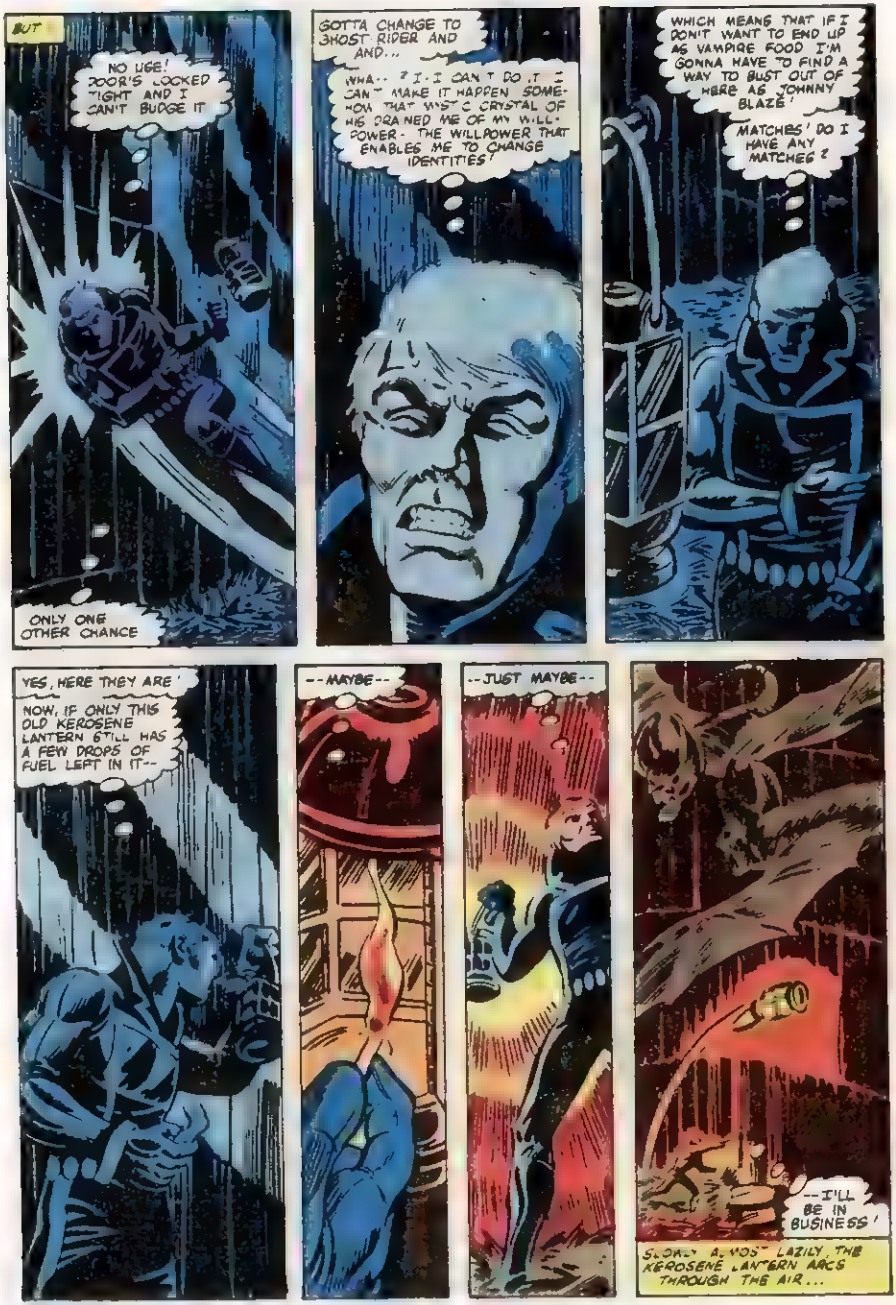
BUT
NO UGE! DOOR'S LOCKED TIGHT AND I CAN'T BUDGE IT
ONLY ONE OTHER CHANCE
GOTTA CHANGE TO GHOST RIDER AND AND...
WHA-- ? I-I CAN'T DO IT I CAN'T MAKE IT HAPPEN SOMEHOW THAT MYSTIC CRYSTAL OF HIS DRAINED ME OF MY WILLPOWER- THE WILLPOWER THAT ENABLES ME TO CHANGE IDENTITIES!
WHICH MEANS THAT IF I DON'T WANT TO END UP AS VAMPIRE FOOD I'M GONNA HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO BUST OUT OF HERE AS JOHNNY BLAZE!
MATCHES! DO I HAVE ANY MATCHES?
YES, HERE THEY ARE! NOW, IF ONLY THIS OLD KEROSENE LANTERN STILL HAS A FEW DROPS OF FUEL LEFT IN IT--
--MAYBE--
--JUST MAYBE--
--I'LL BE IN BUSINESS!
SLOWLY, ALMOST LAZILY, THE KEROSENE LANTERN ARCS THROUGH THE AIR...

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AND THEN
KRAASH
THERE SHE GOES! THIS OLD SILO IS GONNA GO UP LIKE A PILE OF AUTUMN LEAVES!
I JUST PRAY THIS WHOLE BUILDING DOESN'T COME DOWN AROUND MY EARS UNTIL THE FLAMES HAVE A CHANCE TO BURN DOWN LOW ENOUGH TO WEAKEN ONE OF THESE OLD WOODEN WALLS SO THAT I CAN CRASH OUT OF HERE--
AND THE SMOKE CONFUSES THE RATS!
FANNED BY THE WARM SPRING BREEZE, TONGUES OF RED AND ORANGE FLAME, UNSEEN BY MAN, THROUGH THE DRIED-OUT WOOD AND TAR-PAPER SHELL OF THE SILO AND WITHIN MINUTES
"AS THAT LOOK THE SILO'S ON FIRE
DARLING! ARE YOU SURE?
YES I'M SURE, BLAST IT COME ON! WHATEVER BLAZE IS UP TO--
--WE'VE GOT TO--
HI THERE CARTWRIGHT
HUH?
WHOCK!
SMASH

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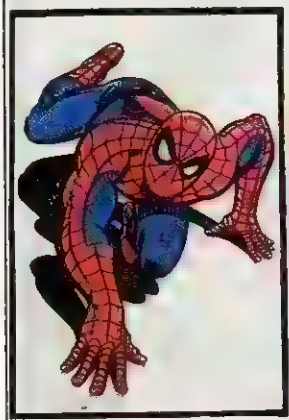

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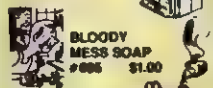

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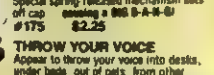

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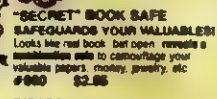

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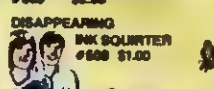

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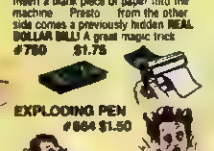

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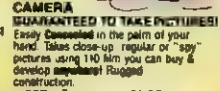

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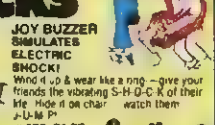

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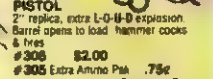

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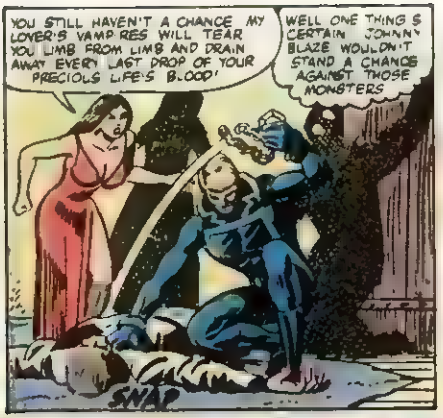
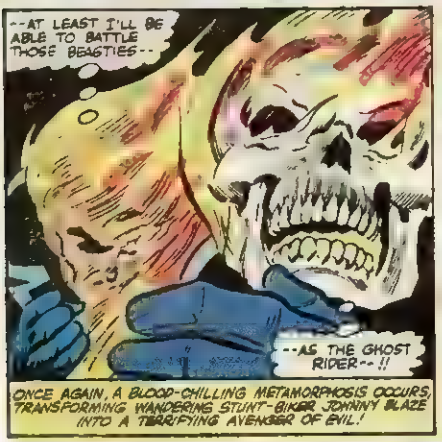
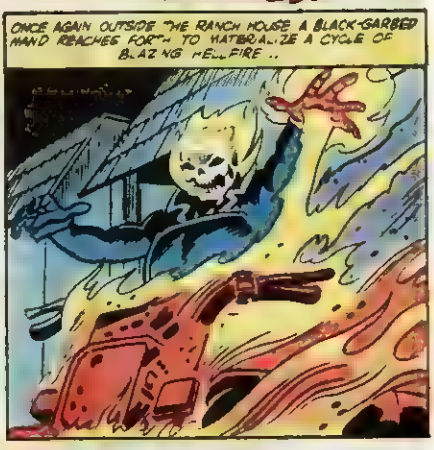
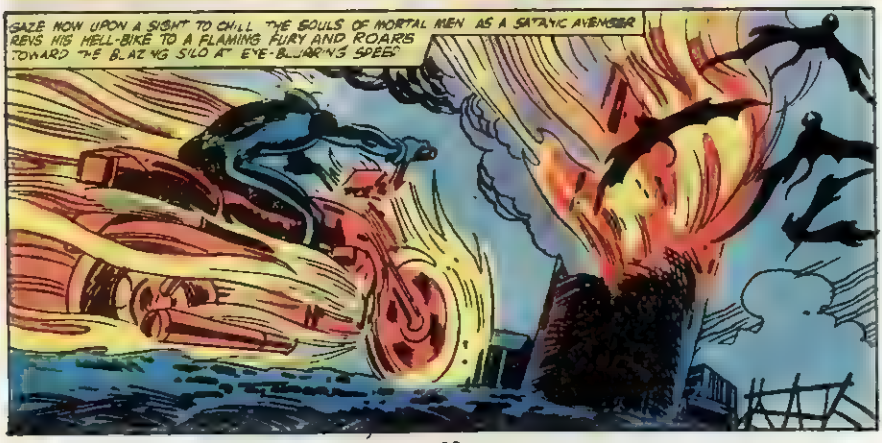

YOU STILL HAVEN'T A CHANCE MY LOVER'S VAMPIRES WILL TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB AND DRAIN AWAY EVERY LAST DROP OF YOUR PRECIOUS LIFE'S BLOOD!
WELL ONE THING'S CERTAIN JOHNNY BLAZE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE MONSTERS
SNAP


--AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO BATTLE THOSE BEASTIES--
--AS THE GHOST RIDER--!!
ONCE AGAIN, A BLOOD-CHILLING METAMORPHOSIS OCCURS, TRANSFORMING WANDERING STUNT-BIKER JOHNNY BLAZE INTO A TERRIFYING AVENGER OF EVIL!




GAZE NOW UPON A SIGHT TO CHILL THE SOULS OF MORTAL MEN AS A SATANIC AVENGER REVS HIS HELL-BIKE TO A FLAMING FURY AND ROARS TOWARD THE BLAZING SILO AT EYE-BLURRING SPEED!

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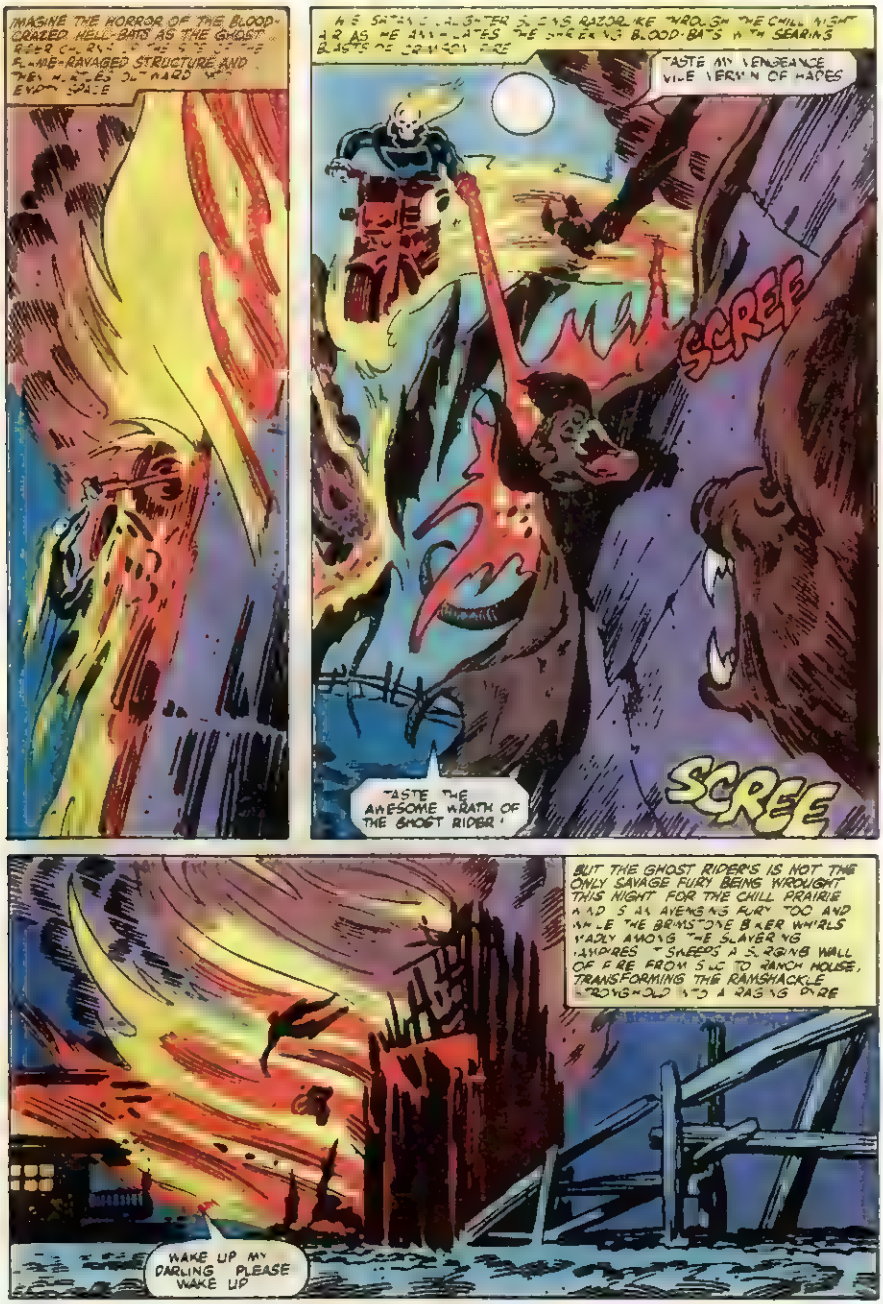
IMAGINE THE HORROR OF THE BLOOD-CRAZED HELL-BATS AS THE GHOST RIDER CLAWS HIS WAY OUT OF THE FLAME-RAVAGED STRUCTURE AND THEN HURLES HIMSELF TOWARD THE EVEN GREATER
AS SATAN'S SLAUGHTER SCANS RAZOR-LIKE THROUGH THE CHILL NIGHT AIR AS HE ANNIHILATES THE SCREECHING BLOOD-BATS WITH SEARING BLASTS OF CRIMSON FIRE
TASTE MY VENGEANCE VILE VERMIN OF HADES
SCREE
TASTE THE AWESOME WRATH OF THE GHOST RIDER!
SCREE
BUT THE GHOST RIDER'S IS NOT THE ONLY SAVAGE FURY BEING WROUGHT THIS NIGHT FOR THE CHILL PRAIRIE WIND IS AN AVENGING FURY TOO AND WHILE THE BRIMSTONE BAKER WHIRLS MADLY AMONG THE SLAVERING VAMPIRES SHEETS A SEARING WALL OF FIRE FROM SHED TO RANCH HOUSE, TRANSFORMING THE RAMSHACKLE HOMESTEAD INTO A RAGING PYRE
WAKE UP MY DARLING PLEASE WAKE UP

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ANNOUNCING

THE MIGHTY MARVEL WIN-YOURSELF SOME-BIG-BUCKS CONTEST!

Like many other companies, we've been forced by rising costs and economic pressures to charge more for our comics. It would be easy to play innocent, and point an accusing finger at all the people who are charging us more for paper, printing supplies and even the electricity for the old forty-watt fluorescent that burns dimly over our drawing boards late into the bleary-eyed hours of the night. We could blame them, but we won't. They're caught in the same one-way cost spiral as us. What we will do is something most folks aren't doing these days — **apologize**. Some folks think that inflation means you never have to say you're sorry. But we're sorry, and we're going to do our best to make it up to you. In just a month or two, we'll be adding extra pages, special features and more sheer excitement than you can wiggle a web at. And while we're waiting, gearing up for all those extra goodies, we've created a great new contest for you, with some dandy, dazzling, dynamite prizes (see below)! It's a way to give you, our friends, a little something back for your patience and loyalty, and (we hope) it'll be fun to boot! Naturally, everyone can't win, but just for kicks, starting in September, we're going to print the name and address of every single entrant! So go to it, gang! In the immortal words of Irving Forbush, "He who enters not, ain't likely to winneth!"

Jim Shooter
Editor-in-Chief

OFFICIAL RULES

1. We're actually running three contests, one for readers 10 years old and under, one for readers 11 to 14 years old, and one for readers 15 years old and older. To enter, find the question for your age group, below, and on any plain piece of paper, type or legibly print your answer. Mail your entry to the address listed under the question for your age group. Be sure to write your name, address, city, state and zip code on your entry.
2. You can enter as often as you like, but each entry must be accompanied by a Marvel Comics proof-of-purchase stamp which can be found elsewhere on this page. All entries must be received by August 15, 1980 to be eligible.
3. All answers entered must be the work of the entrant himself (no fair getting help from your Philosophy Prof). Any resident of the United States can enter, except employees of the Marvel Comics Group and their immediate families, employees of affiliated companies and their immediate families, and employees of Marden-Kane, Inc., and their immediate families.
4. Entries will be judged according to originality, aptness of thought, sincerity, and neatness. Winners will be selected by Marden-Kane, Inc., an independent judging firm. Their decisions are final. All prizes will be awarded, and winners will be notified by mail. Taxes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners. No prize substitutions permitted.
5. All entries become the sole property of the Marvel Comics Group.
6. Contest void where prohibited or restricted by law. All Federal, State, and local laws and regulations apply.

THE QUESTIONS

Q1 **Ages 10 and under** — **"WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL SUPER HERO, AND WHY?"**
Answer in 25 words or less and mail your entry to:
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Q2 **Ages 11 to 14** — **"WHO IS YOUR *LEAST* FAVORITE MARVEL CHARACTER, AND WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE HIM OR HER?"** **Answer in 25 words or less and mail your entry to:**
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Q3 **Ages 15 and older** — **"HOW SHOULD THE MARVEL UNIVERSE CHANGE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE EIGHTIES?"**
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THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE THE EARTH CHIEFS OF STAFF MAY TAKE RETALIATORY MEASURES TOO SOON.
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WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER GENTLEMEN
THOSE WHO RESORT TO VIOLENCE HAVE RUN OUT OF IDEAS
BUT I HAVE NOT.
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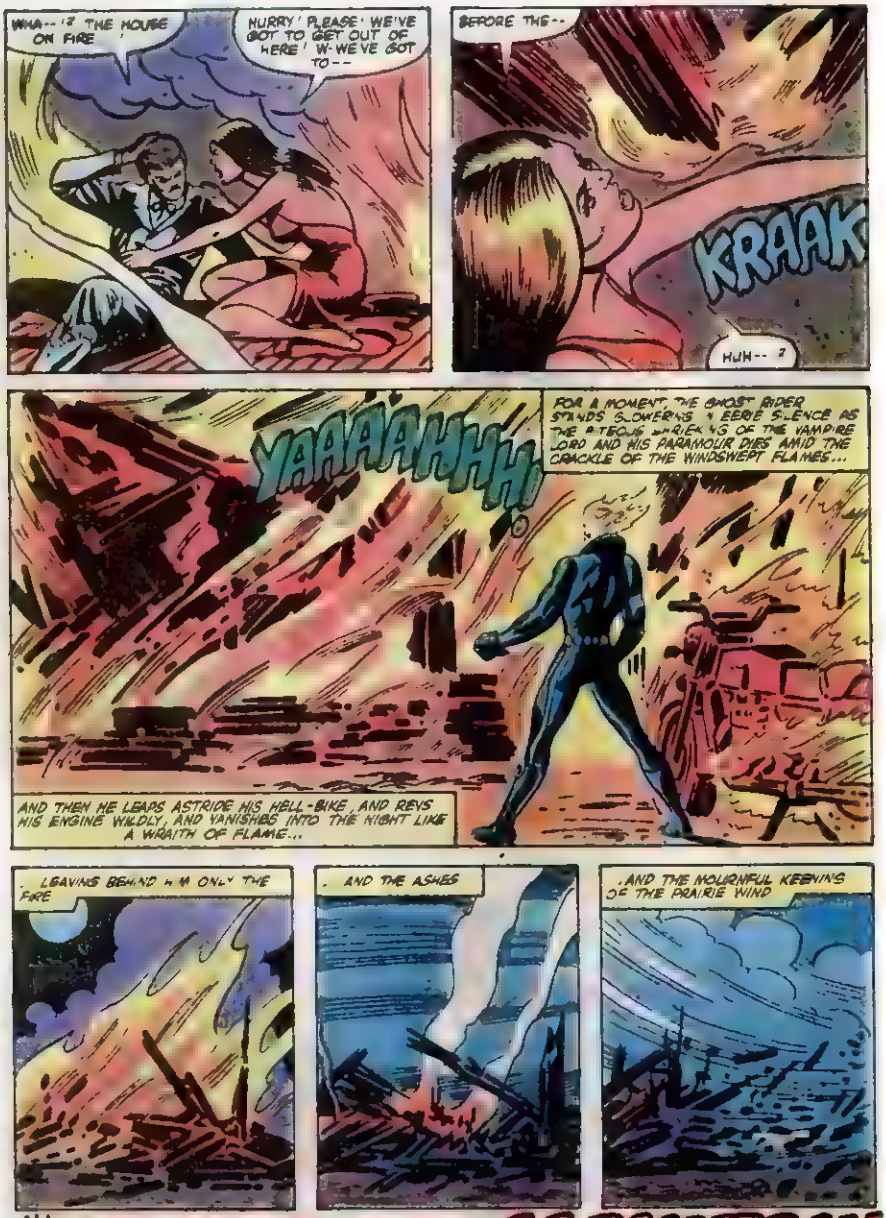
WHA--!? THE HOUSE ON FIRE!
HURRY! PLEASE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! W-WE'VE GOT TO--
BEFORE THE--
KRAAK
HUH--?
YAAAAHHH
FOR A MOMENT, THE GHOST RIDER STANDS SLOWERING, AS EERIE SILENCE AS THE HIDEOUS SHRIEKING OF THE VAMPIRE LORD AND HIS PARAMOUR DIES AMID THE CRACKLE OF THE WINDSWEPT FLAMES...
AND THEN HE LEAPS ASTRIDE HIS HELL-BIKE, AND REVS HIS ENGINE WILDLY, AND VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT LIKE A WRAITH OF FLAME...
LEAVING BEHIND HIM ONLY THE FIRE
AND THE ASHES
AND THE MOURNFUL KEENING OF THE PRAIRIE WIND

NEXT> THE MIGHT OF THE MANITOU!

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GHOST WRITERS!

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575 Madison Avenue
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DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mike and Carmine,

GHOST RIDER #43 was perfect. I don't think anyone has ever done better work on the book.

But I do have one question: how come Ghost Rider is a flaming skeleton, but he has a body form? (I've only been collecting a short time, and every time I've seen The Ghost Rider, this came to mind.)

What brings this up is MARVEL TEAM-UP #91, where the Ghost Rider is shown out of costume as only a flaming skeleton, but in GHOST RIDER #43, Carmine Infantino draws the Ghost Rider with a neck.

Marty Hatton
Lot #12, Whippon's Trailer Park
Columbus, MS 39701

The neck on Carmine's version of the Ghost Rider will have to be chalked up to artistic license, Marty, because our monstrous motorcycle freak is indeed a flaming skeleton. The spell that turned Johnny Blaze into the Ghost Rider allows his physical form to be revealed when he puts on his costume, but the flames around him renders all but bones and eyes invisible and his flesh also takes on an intangible quality. Even we aren't exactly clear on how it works... let's just say it's magic, okay?

Dear People,

I doubt I have ever been so excited about the Ghost Rider. For a while, the direction of this book was lost, but now Mr. Fleisher has finally gotten the character down pat: a man, gifted with extraordinary powers, but at the same time cursed with the spirit of the Ghost Rider.

The idea of splitting up Johnny Blaze and the Ghost Rider was very good, and though it has been used many times in the Hulk, it has not been used here. Just don't let it happen too often. The buildup to the issue was also very good, and we could see the savagery increasing every time Johnny becomes the Ghost Rider. Finally, we have learned for certain that they *are* two different beings. Nice. It shows there was a reason to keep Johnny as the Ghost Rider. It's a real curse. The story might have been better, though, if it was Satan plotting against Johnny, rather than this second-string mage.

After this issue, I'm interested in seeing what directions the book will take. Maybe Johnny will meet his old comrades, the Champions, again.

Dove Pfeil
1302 S. Santa Fe
Wichita, KS 67211

Possible, Dove, but it's pretty unlikely, as The Champions no longer exist.

Dear Mike and Carmine,

I've been a long time GHOST RIDER reader, and let me say I was thrilled to see the mag finally go on sale monthly. GHOST RIDER #43 was your best story in a long time, and I can't wait to see how it turns out. Mr. Infantino did a very nice art job (but I hope that Don Perlin isn't gone for long).

As far as the Ghost Rider having a supporting cast, I think one or two regulars or semi-regulars might make things more interesting. I also think you should have more guest-appearances by other Marvel superheroes.

One more thing. Johnny Blaze should start going through larger cities, like New York or Chicago. Las Vegas might be a good place. He's always going through small towns, and it's getting tiresome.

Whatever you do, I'll keep reading your comic.

Andy Block
PO Box 4423
Margate, FL 33068

And we'll keep watching for your comments, Andy. Rest assured that Whirlin' Don Perlin is not gone for good, Carmine helped out long enough for Don to catch up with his other work on THE DEFENDERS and MAN-THING, and for Mike to shift the book from a bi-monthly to monthly schedule. Don is willing to stay on GHOST RIDER for the long haul. As for Carmine Infantino — thanks for taking time out from drawing STAR WARS long enough to help. You're one terrific pinch hitter, pal!

Dear Marvel,

I really like what Michael Fleisher has done with the Ghost Rider. He has taken a third-rate super hero and turned him into a hell-spawned demon. GHOST RIDER #43 is an interesting contrast between the Ghost Rider and Johnny Blaze. The only problem is the art. Carmine Infantino penciled it just like it was a super hero comic. He just doesn't have Don Perlin's knack for creating moods.

In future issues, I'd enjoy a confrontation between the Ghost Rider and Son of Satan. While I don't really want to see any super heroes in GHOST RIDER, it might be appropriate to have him meet some of his ex-teammates in the Champions.

J. Alexander Hall
2800 Moraga Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

You probably won't see any other superheroes (including Son of Satan, Angel, Iceman, etc.) in the pages of GHOST RIDER. We feel that Michael has created a strong, eerie mood that benefits from only peripheral connection to the Marvel Universe. It's hard to find a character as spooky as The Ghost Rider, and any characters less spooky would hamper the mood. This isn't to say that there are *not* going to be any guest-stars in GHOST RIDER; we simply mean that, if there are, it will qualify as a *very* special event.

—Steven Grant

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #67** — *The Thing* and *Hyperion* square off!
☐ **SHOGUN WARRIORS #20** — Collector's item last issue! Guest-stars the *FF*!
☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #20** — The Web-Lady battles the Fly!
☐ **STAR TREK #6** — An outer-space murder mystery!
☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #40** — Easy to-read Spidey thrillers!
☐ **DAREDEVIL #108** — *The Gladiator!*
☐ **KING CONAN #3** — "Red Moon of Zamboulwar!"
☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES #61** — (Reprints Hulk #140) Enter: *Jarella!*
☐ **SPIDER-MAN #208** — Spidey faces the dual menace of... Fusion!
☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #248** — Machinesmith's robot army!
☐ **THOR #299** — The mortal Thor falls victim to Hagen's wiles!
☐ **MICROBAUTS #21** — When strikes... the Plantyman!
☐ **GHOST RIDER #46** — Wild West vampires! Nuff said!
☐ **SHE-HULK #6** — Guest-stars Man-Thing!
☐ **MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #12** — Mazes, puzzles, riddles and general nuttiness!
☐ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION #23** — (Reprints Avengers #62) *The Black Panther* fights alone!
☐ **AMAZING ADVENTURES #18** — (Reprinted from X-Men #s 5 and 47) Magneto's orbiting death-fortress! Plus: Iceman's origin!
☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #251** — From the fabulous 50's comes... the *3-D Man!*
☐ **AVENGERS #198** — To save the Earth... Death duel with *Red Raven!*
☐ **CONAN #114** — "The Shadow of the Beast!"
☐ **MARVEL TALES #118** — (Reprints Spidey #142) Showdown with Mysterio!
☐ **MARVEL'S GREATEST #82** — (Reprints FF #112) *The Thing vs. the Hulk!*
☐ **X-MEN #137** — The stunning *double-length* "Fate of the Phoenix!"
☐ **TALES TO ASTONISH #18** — (Reprints Sub-Mariner #10) Captain Barracuda's got the Serpent Crown!
☐ **ROM #18** — ROM vs. the Air Force!
☐ **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #18** — (Reprints Silver Surfer #10 and Strange Tales #180) *The Surfer* & Starlin's *Warlock!* What more could you ask?
☐ **MAN-THING #5** — Rampaging youths stalk the Man-Thing!
☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #222** — "The Possession of Franklin Richards!"
☐ **TEAM-UP #97** — *Spider-Woman vs. The Hulk!*
☐ **IRON MAN #138** — Tony Stark takes on the Magpie!
☐ **PETER PARKER #46** — The coils of the *Cobra!*
☐ **DEFENDERS #67** — "Inquest!"
☐ **STAR WARS #38** — Beginning... *The Empire Strikes Back!*
☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #92** — Combat beneath Chinatown!
☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #8** — *Captain Marvel* — stranded on the planet of stopped-time!
☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #19** — Starbuck escapes Scavenge World — but to where!?
☐ **TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #5** — *The Thing* and *The Hulk* — together!
☐ **HULK ANNUAL #8** — A team of all-new super-baddies challenges ol' Grunelein!
☐ **MARVEL TREASURY #27 : THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN** — A giant-sized re-presentation of the Wall-Crawler's most electrifying team-ups!

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☐ **CRAZY #6** — The insanity rolls on with Teen-Hulk, Howard the Duck, "The Sleech Hole!", and lots more!
☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #56** — The Cimmerian must wrest his very soul from a sinister *soul-demon!*
☐ **TOMB OF DRACULA #6** — Dracula in the days of the Civil War! Plus: *Lilith!*
☐ **THE HULK #22** — A crazed scientist plots nuclear war! Also: *Dominic Fortune* with awesome pulsing by Howard Chaykin!

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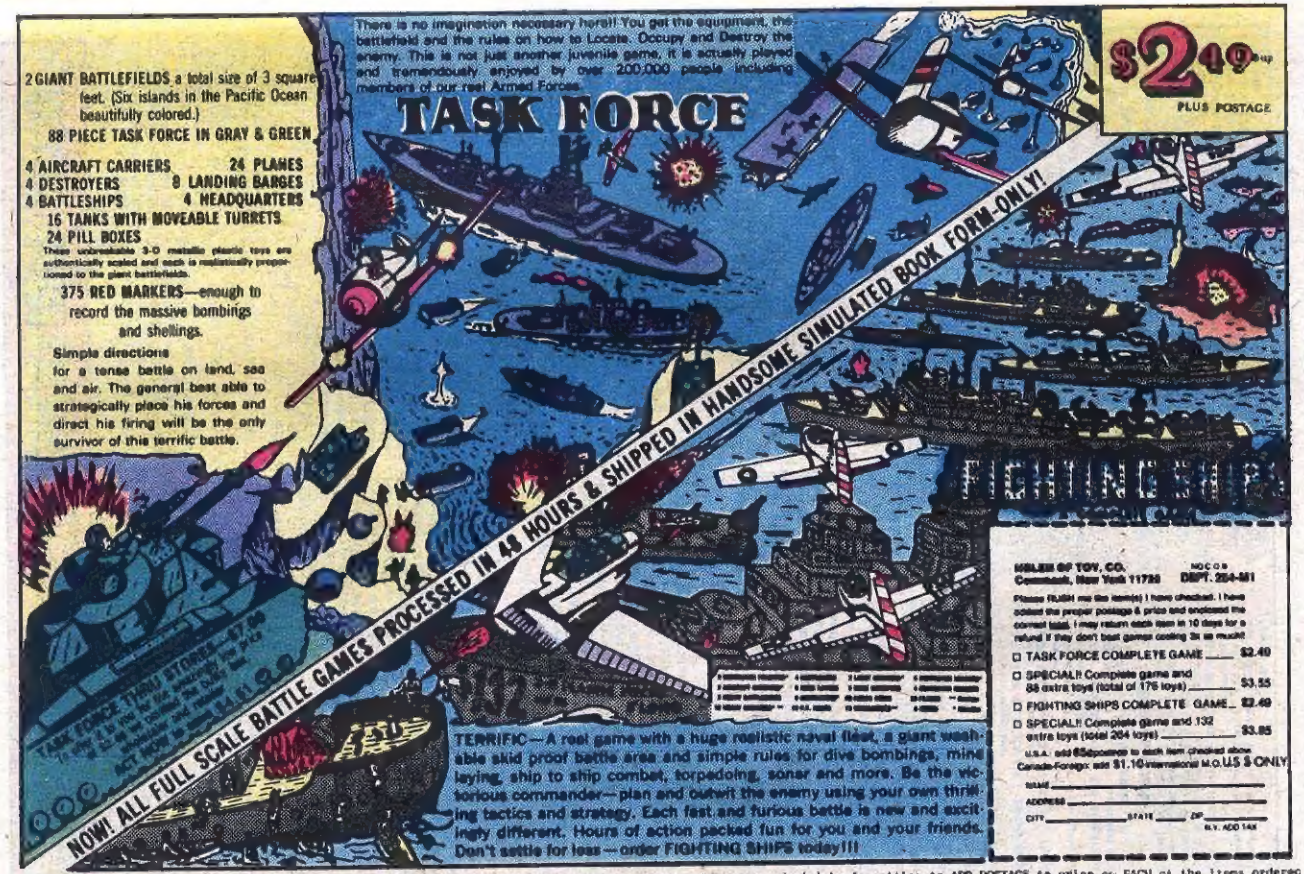
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